

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number:

1000-0494

Case Title:

Cooke Aquaculture Fish Farm Release

Subject of Report:

2018-05-09 Phone Interview of [REDACTED]

Reporting Office:

Seattle, WA, Area Office

Activity Date:

May 9, 2018

Reporting Official and Date:

[REDACTED]

Agent

11-MAY-2018, Signed by: [REDACTED]

Approving Official and Date:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18-MAY-2018, Approved by: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SYNOPSIS

On May 9, 2018, SA [REDACTED] conducted a phone interview of [REDACTED] of Bainbridge Island, Washington, regarding an alleged net pen failure in May of 2017.

DETAILS

On May 9, 2018, I conducted a phone interview of [REDACTED] of Bainbridge Island, Washington, regarding an alleged net pen failure in May of 2017. After being notified of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, [REDACTED] in substance, provided the following information:

BACKGROUND:

[REDACTED]

INCIDENT:

On May 25, 2017 in the evening at approximately 5:30 PM, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were about to leave [REDACTED], when they noticed there was a flagger on [REDACTED] and very large flat-bed truck with a lot of equipment on it. [REDACTED] thought that this was unusual during the evening and stopped to speak with the person doing the flagging.

The unknown Cooke worker stated, in substance, "[REDACTED] was sorry, but the company net pen had an equipment failure." [REDACTED] noticed that the net pen had a large vessel pressed up against the Clam Bay net pen. [REDACTED] recognized this as Cooke's vessel "Elsie." The Elsie was a working boat with a crane on top.

On May 28, 2017, [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED] for the area net pens. [REDACTED] has been employed there for an extended period of time and [REDACTED] knows [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] interactions with the net pen

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personnel. [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that the net pen had an anchor “slip” or break, but that no fish escaped the net pen. [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that the Elsie held the net pen together until equipment arrived and the net pen was repaired. [REDACTED] is aware that Cooke did not report this incident to the Washington Department of Natural Resources. [REDACTED] believes that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] believes that the Clam Bay net pen is a problem area and [REDACTED] has reported several issues such as workers changing oil on the decks, power washing decks over the water and washing skiffs off over the water to the Washington Department of Ecology.

[REDACTED] has some pictures of the equipment on the day of the incident that [REDACTED] is willing to share with the investigation.

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